ULVERSTON

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955

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FOR THE YEAR

1955.

Town Hall,

ULVERSTON.

September, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ulverston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1955.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	3,196
Population - Census 1951	10,076
- Registrar General's Estimate of home population mid 1955	10.270
Number of inhabited houses	3,249
Rateable Value	£68,839
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£271.495

Although a large part of the district is rural in character a variety of industries are carried on in the town the chief of which are tanning, manufacture of antibiotics, electrical accessories, light engineering, dress making and fancy goods. Agriculture plays a large part in the life of the community and a cattle market is held weekly. Ulverston is also the market town for the surrounding countryside and a public market is held once a week.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for 1955 and for the preceding five years are given on page two.

Of the 142 births registered during 1955, 73 were males of which 3 were illegitimate and 69 were females.

Approximately 64% of deaths were of persons 65 years of age and over. The principal causes of death were:- Heart disease 55, Malignant Growths 18 and Vascular lesions of the nervous system 13.

The number of birthsis slightly greater than last year and the number of deaths have fallen to a new low figure so that births exceeded deaths by 32.

Year.	Live Births.		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths.		Maternal Mortality.		Infant Mortality Total.		Infant Mortality Neo-Natal.	
	Number registered.	Rate per 1,000 population.	Number registered.	Rate per 1,000 population.	Number registered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths registered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths registered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	No. of deaths registered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.
1955	142	x13.8	110	x10.7	1	7	Nil	Nil	1	7	1	7
1954	133	13.0	124	12.1	2	15	Nil	Nil	2	15	2	15
1953	139	13.7	126	12.4	3	21	Nil	Nil	4	29	3	22
1952	153	15.2	128	12.7	2	13	Nil	Nil	5	33	1	7
1951	138	13.9	155	15.6	2	14	Nil	Nil	1	7	1	7
1950	158	15.9	147	14.8	3	19	Nil	Nil	7	44	2	13
Average 5 years 1950-54.	-	14.3	-	13.5	-	16	-	-	-	26	-	12

x Adjusted (live birth rate (comparability factor, 1.02) = 14.1 per 1,000

Adjusted (death rate (comparability factor, 0.87) = 9.3 per 1,000

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 160 Smaller towns and this district.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year.	England and Wales.		160 Smaller Towns. 25,000-50,000 population.		Ulverston Urban District.	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1951	15.5	12.5	16.7	12.5	14.6	13.7
1952	15.3	11.3	15.5	11.2	16.0	11.2
1953	15.5	11.4	15.7	11.3	14.4	10.9
1954	15.2	11.3	15.4	11.3	13.2	10.5
1955	15.0	11.7	14.9	11.6	14.1	9.3

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:-	J. L. WILD, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Other Appointments Held:-	Medical Officer of Health - Dalton-in-Furness Urban District, Grange-over-Sands Urban District, Ulverston Rural District. Divisional Medical Officer - Health Division No. 1, Lancashire County Council.
Sanitary Inspector:- Retd. 30.9.55.	C. T. HAGUE, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate R.S.I.
Other Appointments Held:-	Engineer and Surveyor - Ulverston Urban District Council. Manager-Water Undertaking, Ulverston Urban District Council.
Sanitary Inspector:-	J.K. YATES, Joint Board Certificate, R.S.I., Meat and other Foods.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied by Barrow Corporation from Pennington Reservoir to the Ulverston Urban District Council's water works at Castle Hill, Pennington. Here the water is sand filtered before storage in a service reservoir of $2\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons capacity. Before passing into the trunk main for distribution the water is subjected to chlorination.

The prolonged drought during the summer of 1955 caused the imposition of restrictions on the use of hose pipes for watering gardens or washing cars and appeals were made to the public for economy in the use of water but with these minor inconveniences supplies proved to be adequate.

One chemical analysis and five bacteriological analyses of the water were made during the year and all gave satisfactory results.

During the year 74 new houses were connected to the public mains and at the end of the year 3,214 houses were supplied direct to the houses, 18 were supplied by standpipes and 16 from private supplies.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Work continued throughout the year on the new main drainage scheme.

At 31st December, 1955 there were approximately 3,200 houses on the water carriage system with approximately 4,000 water closets.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-	Houses	Flats
(1) By local authority	65	Nil
(2) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	9	Nil

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1578
	(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose	2280
(2)	Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasobable expense of being rendered fit	
	(a) Number found during year	47
	(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year	161
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found during year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	41

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).

(1)	Number of dwelling houses demolished during year	Nil

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:-

	Houses.	Persons Displaced.
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year:		
(a) Housing Act, 1936.		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	Nil	Nil
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	Nil	Nil
(iii) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	Nil	Nil
(b) Housing Act, 1949.		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	Nil	Nil
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	16	44

	Number of Houses.
(2) Repairs during the year	
(a) Unfit houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts.	19
(b) Public Health Acts - action after service of formal notice - Houses in which defects were remedied:-	
(i) By owners	1
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Housing Act, 1936, action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) Houses made fit:-	
(i) By owners	4
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
(d) Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954: Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	Nil

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

(1) No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	Nil

5. Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants etc.

Action during the year:	No. of Schemes.	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	8	8
(b) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil
(c) Finally approved by Ministry	-	-
(d) Work completed	3	3

The very large number of houses inspected during the year was brought about by the survey being undertaken in connection with the slum clearance programme. It has provided some valuable information on the housing conditions of the district and is reported on more fully by the Sanitary Inspector.

It is estimated that some 5% of houses will be dealt with under the Housing Acts during the next 5 years and that a further 25% of existing houses will become unfit during the next 20 years. Many houses are 100-300 years old.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details regarding the inspection of meat, shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector, as also are particulars of registration under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 and 1948.

There were no cases of food poisoning during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Seven houses were disinfected by formaldehyde vapour, following tuberculosis and clothing and bedding have been steam disinfected when necessary at Devonshire Road Hospital, Barrow-in-Furness.

Disease	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955		
						Number of Cases	Removed to Hospital	Deaths.
Scarlet fever	15	5	11	13	12	7	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	208	16	7	298	98	46	0	0
Whooping cough	30	32	37	0	35	4	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0	1	0	1	6	6	0
Cerebral spinal fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Para-typhoid	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
TOTALS.	253	54	57	312	147	63	6	0

A small outbreak of poliomyelitis occurred during October and a total of 6 cases were notified. Three of the cases were in children under 5 years of age, one was aged 8 years and two were over 25 years of age. One of the younger children attended the nursery class at Sandside School and this class was suspended for 3 weeks although the remainder of the school remained open. No direct channel of spread was found between any of the cases nor could the source of infection be discovered.

Of the 46 cases of measles notified 39 occurred during the first quarter of the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the number of new cases and mortality during 1955.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
Years.	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
75 and upwards.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	7		0		0		0	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston during the past 12 years.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
Year.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1944	9	7	5	6	1	2	1	0
1945	4	10	3	2	4	1	0	0
1946	8	2	1	2	5	1	0	0
1947	6	3	1	2	0	3	0	0
1948	1	6	1	0	4	4	0	0
1949	1	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
1950	3	6	3	0	2	3	0	0
1951	5	5	0	3	1	0	0	1
1952	2	8	1	0	0	0	0	0
1953	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1954	6	7	1	0	1	1	0	0
1955	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

The decline in the number of new cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis over the past 12 years will be noticed. It is largely due to the comparative rarity nowadays of tuberculous glands of neck, which in turn can be attributed to the gradual eradication of tuberculous milk.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in chich Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	9	8	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	61	61	3	Nil

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

In November it was found necessary to take action under the above mentioned acts in the case of a man living alone in insanitary conditions and unable to devote to himself proper care and attention. For some considerable time attempts had been made to persuade him to enter residential accommodation provided under the acts or to accept some other form of assistance, but all had proved unsuccessful, and it finally became necessary to remove him as a matter of urgency. A magistrates order for his removal and detention in Stanley Hospital, Ulverston was obtained, which afterwards lapsed, but the man has since voluntarily transferred to residential accommodation.

This report would not be complete without a reference to the retirement of Mr. C. T. Hague who for 44 years has occupied the position of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, and to record the wishes of the staff of the Health Department that he should enjoy a long and happy retirement.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector is appended.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers ef the Ulverston Urban District Council, particularly the Sanitary Inspectors for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit a summary of the work relating to Public Health Administration carried out by the Department during the period 1st January to the 31st December, 1955.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

A regular weekly collection has been maintained throughout the year. Disposal of the refuse has been by controlled tipping at Tebay Lane. Treatments have been carried out to prevent infestations by rodents and insects and the tip has been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

RODENT CONTROL.

Routine treatments of the sewers, sewage works, controlled tip and beck courses have been carried out.

The following is a summary of the total treatments undertaken.

Properties.

Local Authority	20
Dwelling houses	41
Business Premises	57

HOUSING.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government's directive to resume full exercise of the Housing Acts and the passing of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 was the cause of an extensive survey into housing conditions within the Urban District boundary. For this purpose some 1537 houses were inspected to assess the extent of immediate slum clearance committments and give some guidance towards future housing policy. As a result of this survey, 161 houses, considered to be unfit for human habitation, were included in the proposals submitted to the Ministry for dealing with during the next five years. Of these 161 houses, it is intended to include 81 in clearance areas still to be declared and the remaining 80 treated as individual unfit houses and demolished or closed as circumstances dictate.

Two special housing reports were submitted to the Health Committee, the first giving the number and description of properties considered suitable for demolition etc., proposed clearance areas and methods of dealing with unfit properties. The second report was the result of a lengthy survey, summarising the general housing conditions and providing data showing:-

1. Houses which might have to be considered for demolition or included in areas scheduled for demolition in the near future in addition to the 161 already listed:

2. The number of old houses structually sound and worthy of maintenance to prolong their life for another generation:

3. Houses which might warrant consideration for improvement or reconditioning:

4. Houses which might be converted to make additional dwellings:

In addition, much other useful information relating to water supplies, sanitary accommodation, general sanitation etc., was also provided.

The result of the survey is briefly summarised below.

Number of houses fit in all respects	2,116
Number of houses with a future life assessed at 20 years	698
Number of houses with a future life assessed at 10 years	150
Unfit houses for demolition etc.,	161
Houses without an internal water supply	18
Houses with a private water supply	16
Houses without a constant hot water supply	866
Houses without a fixed bath	866
Houses sharing w.c's	217
Houses with pail closets etc.,	24
Houses suitable for improvement	352
Houses suitable for modernisation or conversion	21

The fact that approximately 30% of the existing houses have only a probable future life of up to 20 years if allowed to remain in their present condition without improvement, or that almost an equal number of houses are without proper hot water supplies or a fixed bath is a subject for some consideration.

The following houses have been closed (under the Local Government, Miscellaneous Provisions Act) as being unfit for human habitation but not possible to demolish owing to adjacent houses or property.

9, Bell's Yard.
2, Bridge Street.
29A, The Ellers.
18, Upper Brook Street.
11, Neville Street.

Three houses in the Ellers, closed on account of unfitness, were subsequently converted into two houses, repaired and made suitable for habitation; the undertaking given by the owners being then cancelled.

Five applications for Certificates of Disrepair were made, two of which were not granted as conditions did not justify this action. Three Certificates of Revocation were granted during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

743 inspections and re-inspections have been made following the receipt of complaints or investigation of nuisances and their subsequent abatement,

Below is a summary of the cases abated by serving informal notices:-

Insufficient or insanitary accommodation for house refuse - 1
Defective roofs - 6
Defective spouting and guttering - 3
Dampness from other causes - 8
Inadequate water supply - 2
Defective conditions of drains - 8
Defective or insanitary closets - 15
Verminous premises - 3
Miscellaneous nuisances - 21

Cases dealt with by serving Statutory Notices:-

Premises in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance - 1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat Inspection.

The slaughterhouse in the Gill has continued to be used as a Public Slaughterhouse by the majority of butchers in the town and two butchers from outlying districts. Following requests from the butchers and also to meet present regulations, a boiler to supply steam to a larger pig scalding tub, increased lairage for pigs and new water bowls and feeding racks were installed during the early part of the year.

Although the total number of animals killed (4,751) is only approximately half the number of previous years, the figure for cattle has remained fairly constant.

A satisfactory improvement has taken place in the general reduction of disease, particularly tuberculosis, and for the first time since records were kept no case of congenital tuberculosis was found. Comparative figures of diseased conditions causing local or general condemnation in cattle during the last four years are given below.

Year.	Percentage affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	Percentage affected with tuberculosis.
1955	6.2	1.5
1954	9.5	10.4
1953	15.4	14.3
1952	16.3	14.4
1951	22.5	19.3

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed	697	374	314	2718	648
Number Inspected	697	374	314	2718	642
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned.....	3	4	32	16	1
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.....	12	48	-	2	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.....	2.2%	13.9%	10.2%	0.7%	0.5%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.....	11	5	-	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.6%	1.3%	-	-	0.3%

Causes of Condemnation.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total.
Tuberculosis, generalised	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, congenital	-	-	-	-	-
Anaemia, advanced	-	-	-	-	-
Bruising, extensive and severe	-	1	1	-	2
Emaciation, pathological	2	-	-	-	2
Fever	2	-	3	1	6
Immaturity	-	19	-	-	19
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-
Mastitis, septic	1	-	-	-	1
Pleurisy, septic	-	-	-	-	-
Oedema, generalised	-	-	12	-	12
Pericarditis, septic	-	-	-	-	-
Peritonitis, septic	-	1	-	-	1
Pneumonia, septic	-	1	-	-	1
Pyaemia, including joint ill	-	5	-	-	5
Septicaemia or toxaemia	2	-	-	-	2
Swine erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-
Tumours, multiple	-	-	-	-	-
Uraemia	-	1	-	-	1
Other causes	-	4	-	-	4
	7	32	16	1	56

FOOD SHOPS AND PREMISES.

Preserved Foods.

The two premises registered for the sale of pork products are visited at frequent intervals and have both maintained a high standard of cleanliness. Improvements have taken place in the preparing rooms and further improvements are contemplated in view of the Food Hygiene Regulations. Five Butchers shops are registered for the manufacture and sale of sausage, brawn etc. Unsatisfactory conditions at one shop were brought to the notice of the Council and resulted in structural alterations being carried out to make the premises hygienic. Structural alterations have also been undertaken at another shop and the butchers premises have generally been found satisfactory.

Bakehouses.

There are 14 bakehouses on the register, the majority being used in conjunction with confectioner's shops. At five of the premises the proprietor's attention was called to insufficient cleanliness or the need for decoration and in all cases the work was carried out before the next inspection. One bakehouse has been transferred to a new building giving a larger and better working space and another bakehouse is being altered to improve the layout and resultant cleansing.

Fried Fish Shops.

Of the four fried fish shops, two provide meals on the premises and the other two retail over the counter. An attempt is being made to raise the hygienic standard where the property is old, for although in a reasonably clean condition, they do not compare favourably with the high sanitation of some other food businesses.

General Food Shops, Catering Establishments etc.

The general standard is reasonably good although some traders find it financially difficult to make older property keep up to present day standards. No real difficulty has been experienced enforcing the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, etc., and it is hoped that the improvements will be continued in view of the proposed new legislation affecting all food premises and handlers.

The following foodstuffs have been disposed of after being voluntarily surrendered by the owners.

Bacon, sausage and imported beef	144¼ lbs.
Butter	½ lb.
Fruit	20 lbs.
Tinned meats, vegetables, etc.,	494 tins.

ICE CREAM.

Two premises are registered for the manufacture, storage and sale and 25 premises for storage and sale. The retailers mainly sell pre-packed ice-cream supplied by the larger manufacturers outside the district. All premises have been kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, two persons are registered as Distributors and two premises registered for use as Dairies (not being Dairy Farms).

Four dealer's licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and two retail Distributors licences to sell pasteurised milk have been issued.

23 samples of milk were obtained for bacteriological examination for cleanliness, all of which proved to be satisfactory. 16 samples of milk were also submitted for biological examination and proved negative to the tubercle test.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. K. YATES.

Sanitary Inspector.